GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7849
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2000
CONTRACEPTIVES
RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Garbh Nirodhakon Ke Chayan Mein Laparwahi Se Asfal Hue Karyakram` appearing in the Hindi daily `Rashtriya Sahara` dated April 4, 2000`;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have overlooked the ill effects of contraceptives, the methods of abortions and vasectomy on the health of men and women;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any research in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;
(g) the steps being taken by the Government to make available the contraceptives without any side effects;
(h) whether the Government treat family planning as the part of integrated health services; and
(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The observations made in the Article are not based on facts.

(c) No, Sir. All the methods offered under National Family Welfare Programme are safe and effective in preventing pregnancy. However, some of these methods are associated with minor side effects like nausea, vomiting, bleeding irregularities etc. Government is aware of these side effects and constantly emphasizes quality of care aspects like counseling and screening of acceptors. All couples are free to choose method they want to adopt. Injectable contraceptives are marketed in India commercially and are under Post Marketing Surveillance. Other methods like Norplant for contraception and RU 486 termination of pregnancy have been found to be safe during clinical trials carried out by Indian Council of Medical Research. Abortion services are available in Government approved clinics and hospitals which are equipped for carrying out abortions and management of complications, if any.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) &(f) Indian Council of Medical Research carries out several multicentricclinical trials on new contraceptives for their safety, efficacy, side effects and acceptability. These clinical trials are initiated after mandatory approvals from Toxicology Review Panel Committee of ICMR from the Drug Controller General of India and the Ethics Committees of respective Institutes. The trials are carefully monitored with provision for discontinuing in the event of any complication.

(g) The Government is encouraging efforts to develop plant based contraceptives which have no side effects. Government is also promoting use of barrier methods and No Scalpel Vasectomy each of which has relatively few or no side effects.

(h) The focus of recently launched Reproductive and Child Health Programme is to provide need based, client centered,demand driven integrated good quality services to the community. These include Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Safe abortion and Treatment of Reproductive Tract Infection/STDs.

(i) Not applicable.